

Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

November 2014

Produced by the Crime Analysis Unit

November 2014



Part I Total Crime

For the first eleven months of 2014, a substantive reduction of 14% has been recorded for serious crime in Cambridge. There have been 418 fewer Part One crimes reported in the city from January to the end of November when compared with the same time frame in 2013. When measured against the five-year average, a pronounced 18% decline in Serious crime has been registered.

Further analysis of crime totals so far in 2014 reveals that the property crimes of burglary & larceny continue to be the key indicators and the driving forces behind the overall descending decline of serious crime. The index crime of Burglary has plunged 29% and a 13% cut in the total of Larcenies has been reported. Larceny from the person (-34%), larceny from motor vehicles (-24%), and housebreaks (-31%) are the categories of incident types fueling the tumbling crime numbers.

The 31% decrease in violent crime from September to October of 2014 was quickly followed with another sizable decrease in November of 43% with the total of violent incidents falling from 23 in October to 13 crimes over the past 30 days.

	4 Week Snapshot			Year to Date		Five Year		
	10/7-11/3	11/4-12/1	Change	2013	2014	Change	Avg	Change
Total Violent Crime	23	13	-43%	313	268	-14%	370	-28%
Total Property Crime	254	191	400	2702			2808	-17%
Total Part I Crime	277	204	-26%	3015	2597	-14%	3178	-18%



Part I Property Crime

Analysis of property crime totals for the first eleven months of 2014 shows a 14% decrease when measured against the 2013 totals and a 17% reduction below the five-year average. The only property crime categories to register increases so far this year are small rises in auto theft, larcenies from residences, and larcenies of license plates. Eight of the twelve indexes associated with property crimes are in the green (on the decline) so far in 2014.

	4 Week Snapshot			<u>Y</u>	ear to	<u>Date</u>	<u>Five</u>	Year
	10/7-11/3	11/4-12/1	Change	2013	2014	Change	Avg	Change
Burglary	24	29	21%	373	265	-29%	423	-37%
Commercial Break	4	5	25%	59	48	-19%	70	-31%
Housebreak	20	24	20%	314	217	-31%	353	-39%
Larceny	217	154	-29%	2228	1940	-13%	2258	-14%
Larceny (Misc)	5	4	-20%	21	42	100%	28	50%
Larceny from Building	26	32	23%	356	336	-6%	353	-5%
Larceny from MV	66	34	-48%	595	452	-24%	642	-30%
Larceny from Person	24	14	-42%	312	205	-34%	311	-34%
Larceny from Residence	25	12	-52%	167	197	18%	181	9%
Larceny of Bicycle	26	14	-46%	373	320	-14%	356	-10%
Larceny of Plate	3	1	-67%		24	20%	31	-23%
Larceny of Services	1	2	100%	19	15	-21%	20	-25%
Shoplifting	41	41	0%	365	349	-4%	335	4%
Auto Theft	13	8	-38%	101	124	23%	127	-2%
Total Property Crime	254	191	-25%	2702	2329	-14%	2808	-17%



Part I Violent Crime

From January 1st to December 1st of 2014, there were 268 violent crimes recorded in the City, 45 incidents below last year (-14%) and 102 violent crimes under the total of 370 incidents for the five-year weighted average forecast for the first eleven months of 2014 (-28%).

Street robbery has dropped an eye-catching 48% when compared with 2013 and a remarkable 57% when measured against the five-year weighted average, with no spatial or temporal patterns identified so far in 2014. There was but one robbery recorded in Cambridge in November - a number that represents the lowest monthly count for this target crime in our City in 40 years. The total of aggravated assaults have declined 7%, with 12 fewer incidents tallied for the first eleven months of the year.

	4 Week Snapshot			<u>Y</u>	ear to	<u>Date</u>	<u>Five</u>	Five Year	
	10/7-11/3	11/4-12/1	Change	2013	2014	Change	Avg	Change	
Homicide	0	0	IN-CALC	3	2	-33%	2	0%	
Rape	4	2	-50%	23	30	30%	25	20%	
Robbery	4	1	-75%	107	68	-36%	123	-45%	
Commercial Robbery	1	0	-100%	25	25	0%	22	14%	
Street Robbery	3	1	-67%	82	43	-48%	101	-57%	
Aggravated Assault	15	10	-33%	180	168	- 7 %	219	-23%	
Total Violent Crime	23	13	-43%	313	268	-14%	370	-28%	



MURDER

No Patterns

- Kensley David, 22, suffered a single gunshot wound to the head after a shooting on Windsor Street in Cambridge around 10 p.m. on July 3rd. It was the second homicide of 2014 in Cambridge. Investigators believe that the incident was not random. Cambridge police, State Police, and the District Attorney's office urge anyone with information about the shooting to contact authorities.
- The first murder of 2014 involved Malia Gomez, 40, of 396 Putnam Ave, who has been charged in the death of Dana Robinson. Gomez admitted to stabbing Robinson following an argument on February 2nd. Robinson died at Beth Israel Hospital and Gomez was charged with armed assault with the intent to murder, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon causing serious bodily injury. On April 1st, 2014, Malia Gomez was indicted on First Degree Murder.
- Trend analysis for the past 20 years points to two recurring murder scenarios in Cambridge: a domestic murder and the murder of young males by a handgun or knife in acts of retaliatory street violence.

Percent Change*

Last 4 Weeks

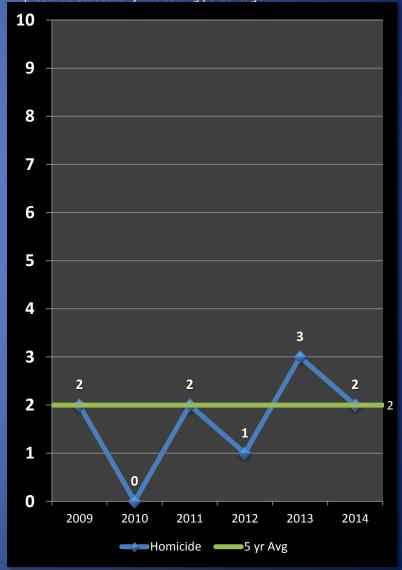
Previous Year

In-calc

0%



*IN -CAL: Percentages are not calculated for numbers so small as to present a statistically misleading percentage.





Unsolved Murders: 1999 to 2013

Colin Burton, 30, of Dorchester, was shot and killed outside of Hi - Fi Pizza on Mass Ave in Central Square on September 18th, 1999. Burton was talking with the occupants of a Ford Explorer when the subject in the passenger seat fired through the window. Two suspects fled the scene. The case remains under active investigation.



September 18, 1999, Mass Ave



lan Gray, 19, of Mattapan, was in an argument outside of the Rhythm & Spice restaurant that spilled out onto Mass Ave. A suspect that had left the scene retuned with a group of people and a fight ensued. A knife was produced during the altercation and four gunshots were fired, fatally wounding Gray. This case remains open.

On June 17th, 2002 at 7:00PM, Ricardo Williams, 27, of Malden, was found in the driver's seat of a motor vehicle suffering from a gunshot wound to his face. Williams was taken to CCH where he was pronounced dead. This case remains open.





Unsolved Murders: 1999 to 2013

Jason Ellcock, 33, of Malden, formerly of Cambridge and father of three, was found with multiple gunshot wounds in front of the driveway to 364 Rindge Ave at 3:05 AM on the night of June 16th, 2009. He was pronounced dead at the scene. This incident remains under investigation.



June 16, 2009, Rindge Ave



March 12, 2011, Brookline St

James Lauture, 30, of Cambridge, was sitting in a vehicle near Brookline and Watson Streets just after midnight on Saturday, March 12th, 2011, when an unknown gunman opened fire. The occupants in the car were able to drive to Central Square. Lauture died from multiple gunshot wounds. The other man in the vehicle survived. This case remains open.

On June 3rd, 2012, **Charlene Holmes**, 16, of Cambridge was shot while sitting on a porch on Willow Street. She later succumbed to her wounds at the hospital. The investigation into this incident remains active, but no arrests have been made to date.





RAPE

No Patterns

- The violent index crime of Rape has increased from 23 incidents in the first eleven months of 2013 to 30 reported sexual assaults over the same time frame for 2014.
- There has been one stranger rape in Cambridge so far in 2014 and it involved an attempted sexual assault south of Porter Square on April 16th.
- The two rapes that were reported in Cambridge during November of 2014 were classified as an acquaintance and domestic scenarios.
- The following is the breakdown of Rape classifications in Cambridge so far in 2014: one stranger-to-stranger, fourteen involving acquaintances, six contact situations, five domestic sexual assaults, two blitz scenarios, and two incidents that are still under investigation and have yet to be classified.

Percent Change*

Last 4 Weeks Previous Year

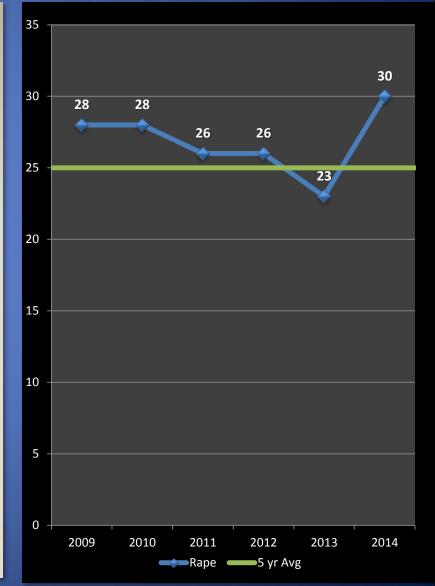
In-calc

+30%

+20%

5 Year Average

*IN -CAL: Percentages are not calculated for numbers so small as to present a statistically misleading percentage.







AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

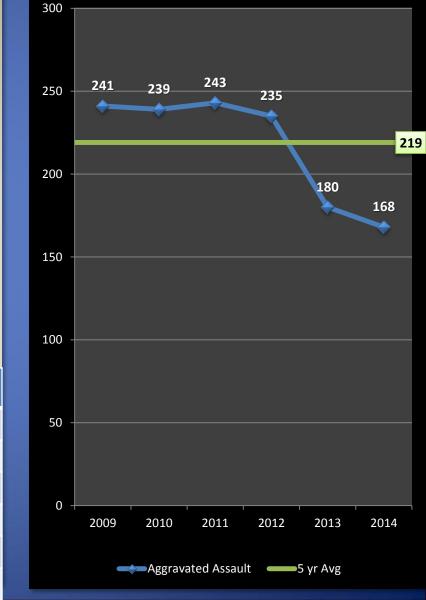
No Patterns

- When compared with the first eleven months of 2013, aggravated assaults recorded a 7% dip with 12 fewer incidents reported for the same time period in 2014. When measuring this violent index crime against the five-year average for the time period between January and the 1st of December, there has been a reduction of 23%, with 51 fewer crimes below the projected average of 219 aggravated assaults.
- Each year, domestics account for a high percentage, between 40 to 45 percent of all aggravated assaults.
 That trend continues so far in 2014 with domestic incidents counting for 40% of the total. Extra patrols in the area appear to have assuaged the problem of fights at the time of bar closings on weekend nights in Central Square during September and October.
- Classification Breakdown for 2014

Туре	Number	% of Total
Domestic	67	40%
Unprovoked	27	16%
Alcohol /Bar	27	16%
Homeless	16	9%
Road Rage	16	9%
A&B on Police	16	9%

Percent Change

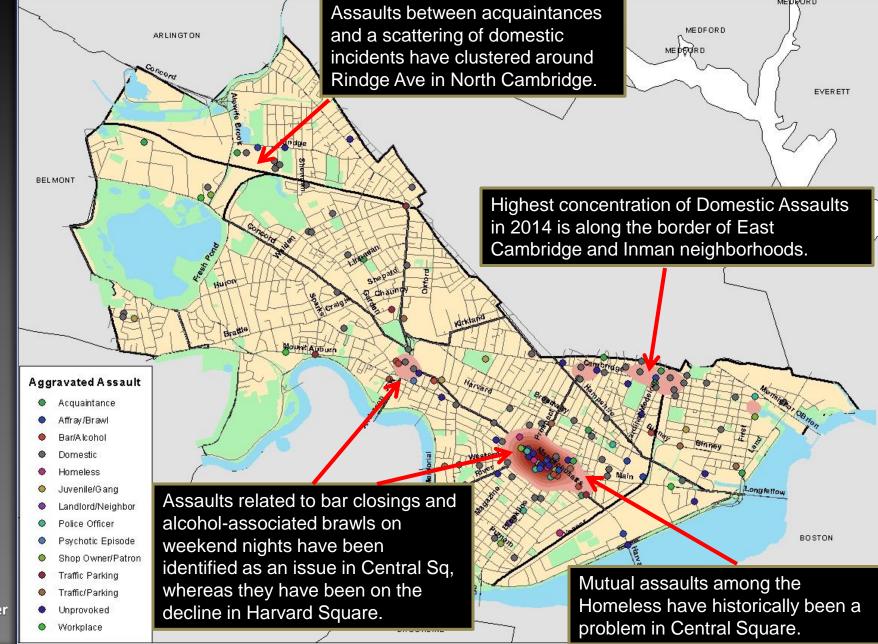








Aggravated Assault in Cambridge by Category: 1.1.14 to 12.1.14





ROBBERY

No Patterns

- The five-year average for overall robbery in Cambridge for the first eleven months of the year is 123 incidents. Between January and December 1st of 2014, 68 robberies were recorded, which indicates a 45% decline below the projected total.
- There were six commercial robberies in the first five weeks of 2014. That spree stopped on February 8th, with only 19 incidents recorded over the next ten months. There has been only one commercial robbery over the past two months. That incident was part of an emerging trend of incidents involving shopliftings that escalate into violent confrontations. Arrests have been made in 13 of the 25 commercial robberies so far in 2014.
- Street robberies declined 21% in Cambridge in 2013
 to the lowest total in 40 years and that unfaltering slide
 has continued over the first eleven months of 2014,
 with a phenomenal dive of 48% recorded when
 compared with last year's total for the same time
 period. The total of 43 street robberies through
 November of this year is an exceptionally low number
 for Cambridge. Reference the chart on the right and
 compare this year with 2009 when there were 141
 street robberies in Cambridge between January and
 the end of November of that year.

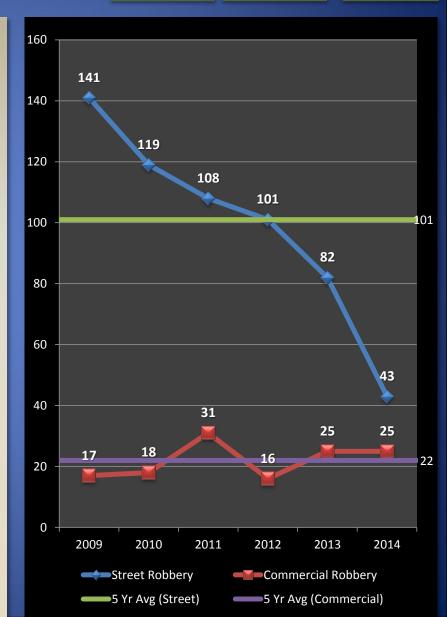
Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks Previous Year 5 Year Average

-75%

-36%

-45%





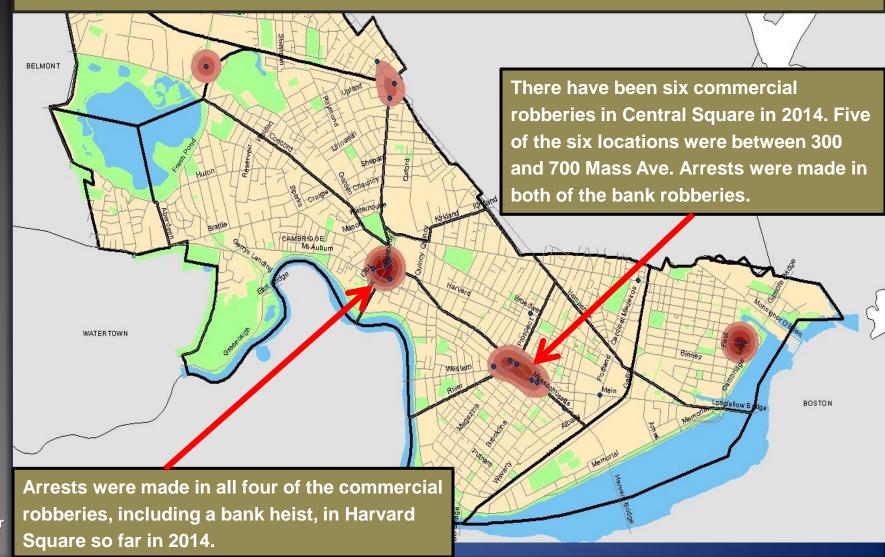
Street Robberies: 1.1.14 to 12.1.14





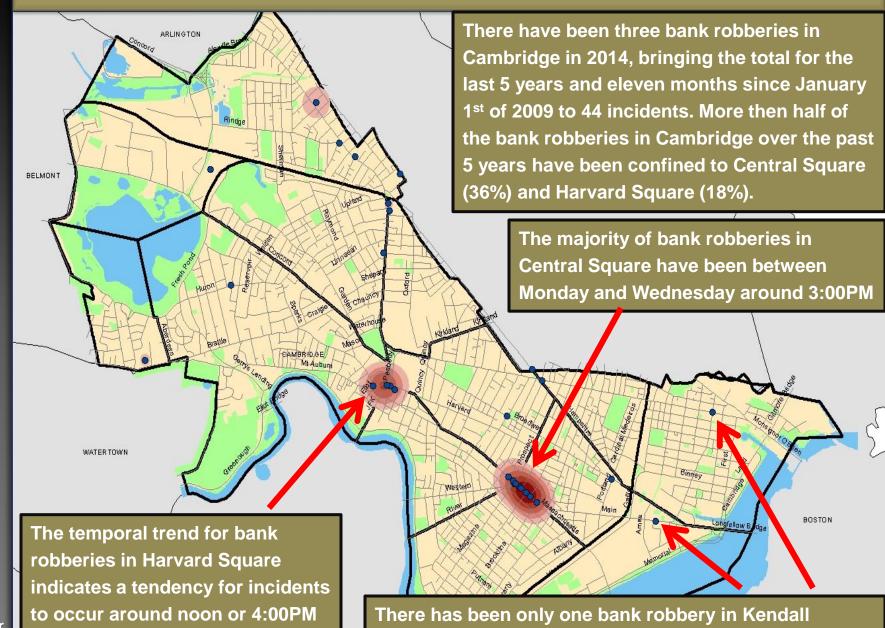
Commercial Robberies: 1.1.14 to 12.1.14

There were six commercial robberies in the first five weeks of 2014. That spree stopped on February 8th, with only 19 incidents recorded over the next 10 months. Arrests have been made in 13 of the 25 commercial robberies.





Bank Robberies in Cambridge: 1.1.09 to 12.1.14



Square and one in East Cambridge since 2009.

November 2014

on Wednesday or Thursday.





Burglary

Identified Patterns

 The property index crime of burglary, the combination of residential and commercial breaks, has fallen 37% when compared to the five-year average, with 158 fewer incidents than the projected total of 423 breaks, and is down 29% when compared with last year's total for the first eleven months of the year, with 108 fewer burglaries reported.

- There has been a 19% reduction in commercial burglary over the first eleven months of 2014. When measured against the five-year average, a 31% decline is revealed with 202 fewer incidents than the 70 projected for the period between January and the end of November. There has not been a commercial burglary pattern identified yet in 2014.
- Analysis of housebreak activity in Cambridge for the first eleven months of 2014 points to a 31% decline (97 fewer breaks) below 2014 and a 39% decline below the five-year projected average of 353 housebreaks.

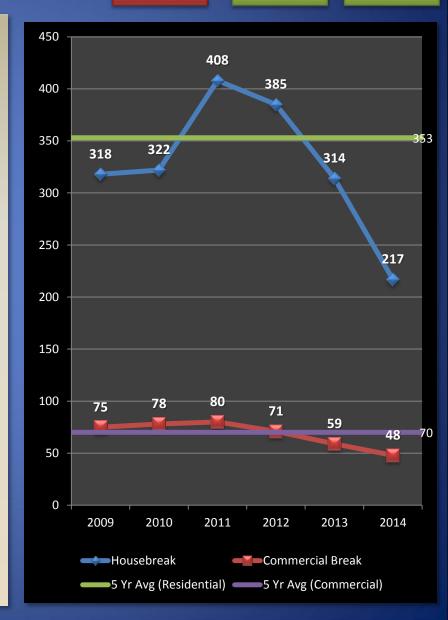
Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks Previous Year 5 Year Average

+21%

-29%

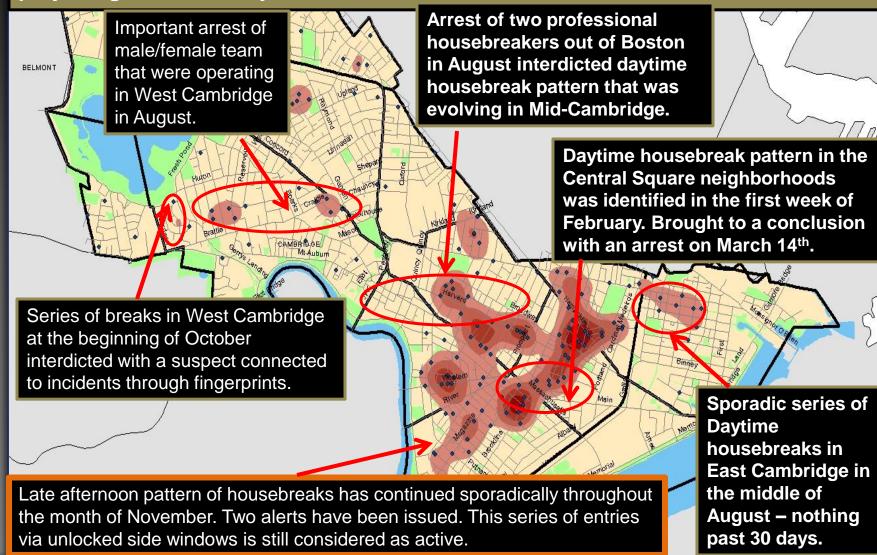
-37%





Housebreaks: 1.1.14 to 12.1.14

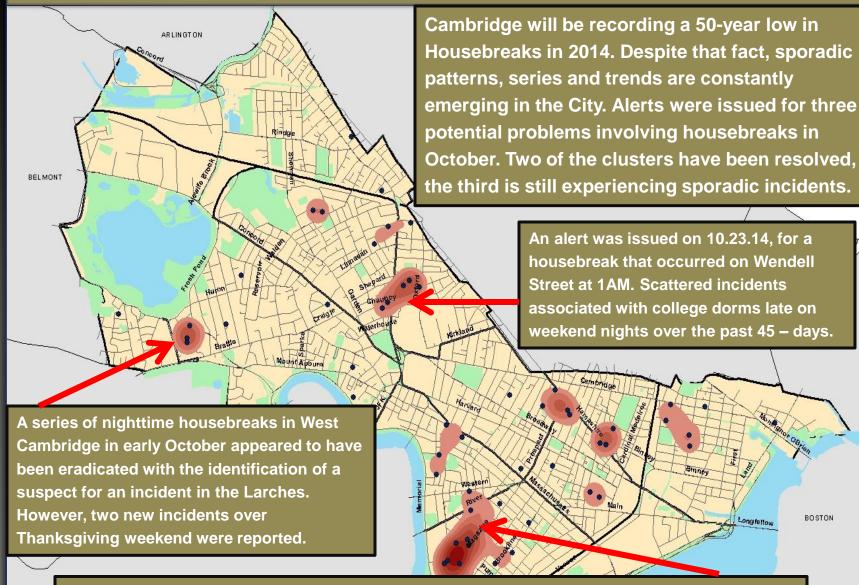
Analysis of housebreak activity in Cambridge for the first eleven months of 2014 points to a 31% reduction (97 fewer breaks) below 2013. The Crime Analysis Unit is projecting a historic 50-year low total for this crime in 2014.







Housebreaks: 9.1.14 to 12.1.14



Late afternoon pattern of housebreaks in Cambridgeport continued sporadically throughout the month of November. Two alerts have been issued. This series of entries via unlocked side windows is still considered active.



LARCENY

Continuing Patterns

-29%

Last 4 Weeks

430/

Percent Change

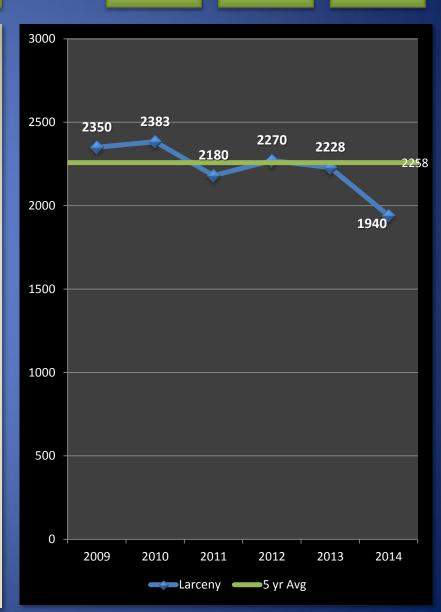
Previous Year

5 Year Average

% -13%

-14%

- Overall larceny through the first eleven months of 2014 has been reduced by 13% when compared with the same time frame in 2013 and is 14% below the five-year weighted average.
- Larcenies from motor vehicles in 2014 have decreased by 143 crimes, or 24%, from the number reported during the first eleven months of last year. LMVs decreased 48% (32 incidents) from October to November of this year.
- We continue to see a substantial decline in larcenies from persons. They have declined an astonishing 107 incidents (34%) for the first eleven months of 2014 when compared with the same time frame for last year. The total of 205 incidents reported thus far in 2014 is 106 incidents below the five-year average of 311. Harvard Sq and the East/Galleria area both saw 4 incidents each in November.
- There have been 336 larcenies from buildings reported through November of 2014. This is 6% below the number reported in 2013 and 5% below the five-year average. The top category in November of this crime type was unattended (bar/social) as we had a number of larcenies from a social club in Harvard Sq. An arrest was made during which a Cambridge juvenile was in possession of items stolen from the club.
- Larcenies from residences are one of the few crimes to see an increase this year. This crime type has risen 18% when compared to last year, due largely to an increase in package thefts from residences as this accounts for 45% of all larcenies from residences. It is expected to increase with the holiday season quickly approaching. In November a homeless couple was arrested for stealing a package from Sidney St.
- Thus far in 2014, there have been 320 bikes reported stolen citywide in Cambridge. This is 14% (53 incidents) below the number reported during this time frame in 2013 and 10% (36 incidents) below the average. In November Cambridgeport and MidCambridge both reported 4 thefts.





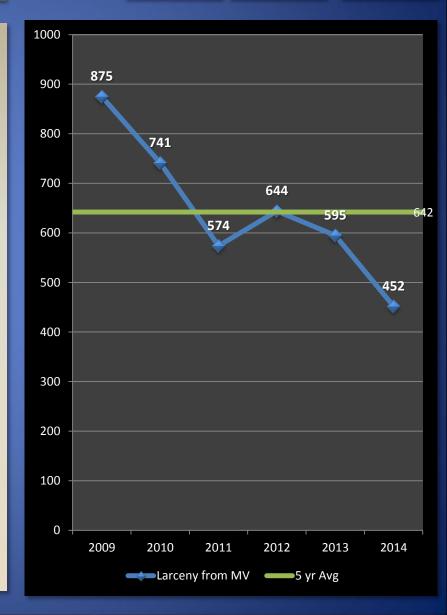
LARCENY: From MVs

Emerging Pattern

- Larcenies from MVs have declined 24% through the first eleven months of 2014 when compared with the same time frame in 2013. There have been 143 fewer thefts reported so far this year. This crime has also dropped 30% when measured against the five-year average, with 190 fewer incidents than the projected total of 642 thefts.
- When comparing the last four weeks to the previous four weeks, this property index crime plunged downward by 48% with 32 fewer thefts reported.
- The major larceny from motor vehicle pattern for the summer of 2014 was identified during the third week of August. Over a 10-day period, there had been 16 reported motor vehicle breaks in and around the Peabody neighborhood. This pattern was interdicted in mid September when two arrests were made of a homeless subject and a Somerville resident.
- Since the first week in October, there has been a subtle shift to thefts from motor vehicles parked in garages with the major cluster identified in and around Kendall Square. Warrants were issued in late- November for a prolific –offender who previously had been active breaking into cars in Boston Hospital garages early this autumn.

Percent Change

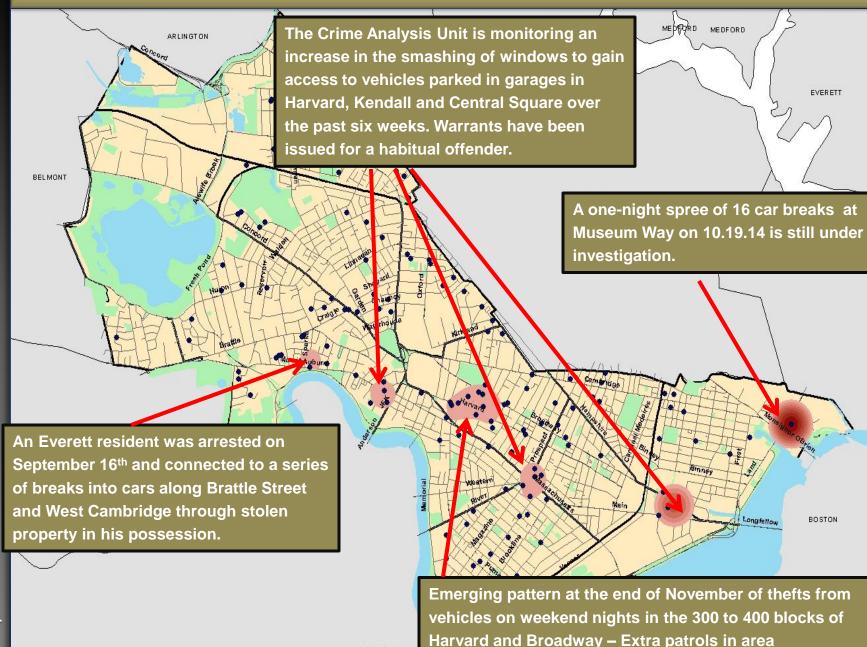
-48% Previous Year 5 Year Average







Larceny from MVs: 9.1.14 to 12.1.14





Larceny from Motor Vehicles

What can we do?

Police Response Strategy:

- Cambridge Police are focused on prevention of these crimes by increasing officer visibility in targeted areas.
- Citizens are encouraged to take the proper precautions to protect their vehicles and their belongings by doing everything possible to not make their vehicles easy targets.



Citizen Response Strategy:

- Citizens are asked to take the following precautions to protect themselves, their vehicles, and their belongings from theft:
 - Make sure all of your car doors are locked when you leave your vehicle.
 - Take extra care when out doing your shopping.
 - •If you are approached by a suspicious person while you are in your vehicle, sound your horn to attract attention.
 - NEVER LEAVE VALUABLES EXPOSED IN YOUR CAR.
 - If you must leave packages or valuables in your car, place them in the trunk or under a blanket to conceal them
 - Visit our website for more tips to keep your vehicles and belongings at www.CambridgePolice.org/SafetyTips



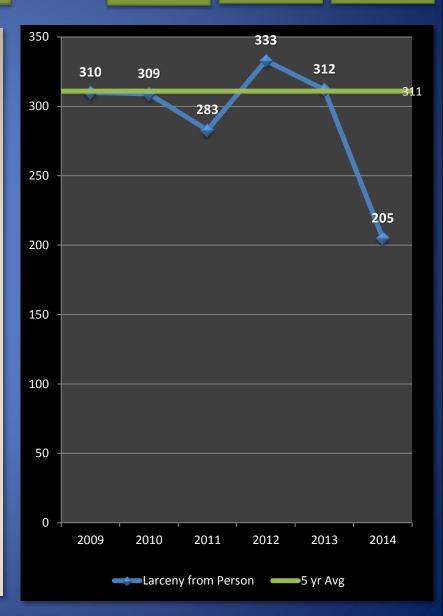


LARCENY: from Person No Patterns

- Larcenies from the person have declined an astonishing 107 incidents (34%) for the first eleven months of 2014 when compared with the same time frame for last year. The total of 205 incidents reported thus far in 2014 is 106 incidents below the five-year average of 311. There are no patterns of this crime type anywhere in the city at the present time. As expected with the holiday season upon us, larcenies picked up at the CambridgeSide mall with holiday shoppers.
- Often, much of the larceny from person activity is reported at bars and restaurants in the Squares (known as "dipper" activity). In October, there were two incident of this nature reported in Harvard Sq, and one incident in Central Sq.
- Part of the explanation for the large reduction may be that a number of the more prolific thieves, particularly ones that that tend to target the Harvard Square area, are currently incarcerated. The hot spot in Harvard Sq for these thieves experienced the first larceny all year in November. Last year at this location throughout the first eleven months we had 16 larcenies from the person while dining.

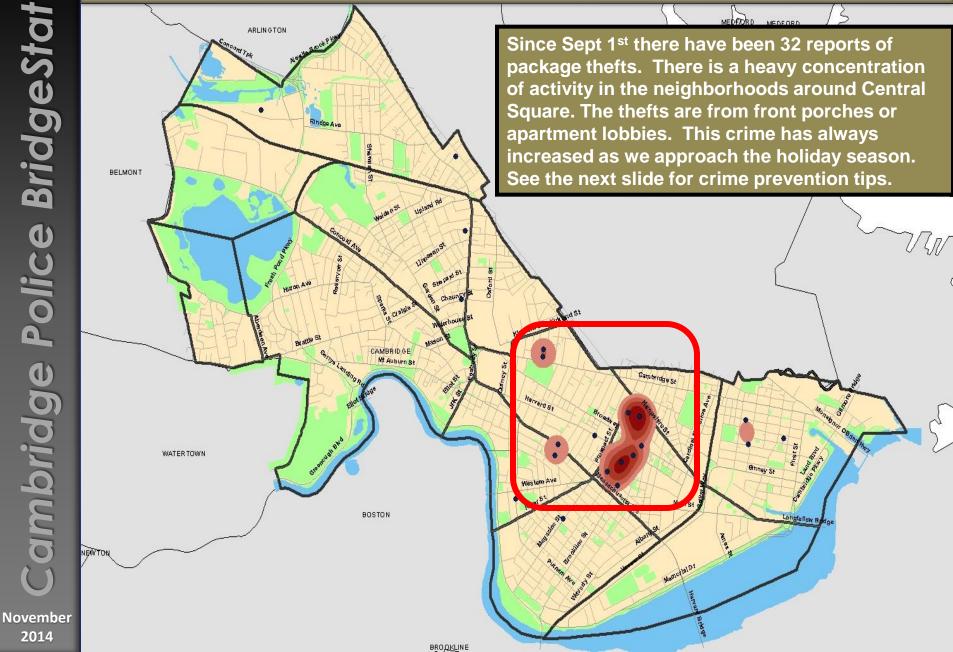
Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks Previous Year 5 Year Average +42% -34% -34%





Larceny from Residences: Package Thefts





Package Thefts What can we do?

Police Response Strategy:

- Cambridge Police are focused on prevention of these crimes by increasing officer visibility in targeted areas.
- CPD closely tracks patterns of reported package thefts and, in turn, identifies and communicates those hot spots for patrol officers and citizens.

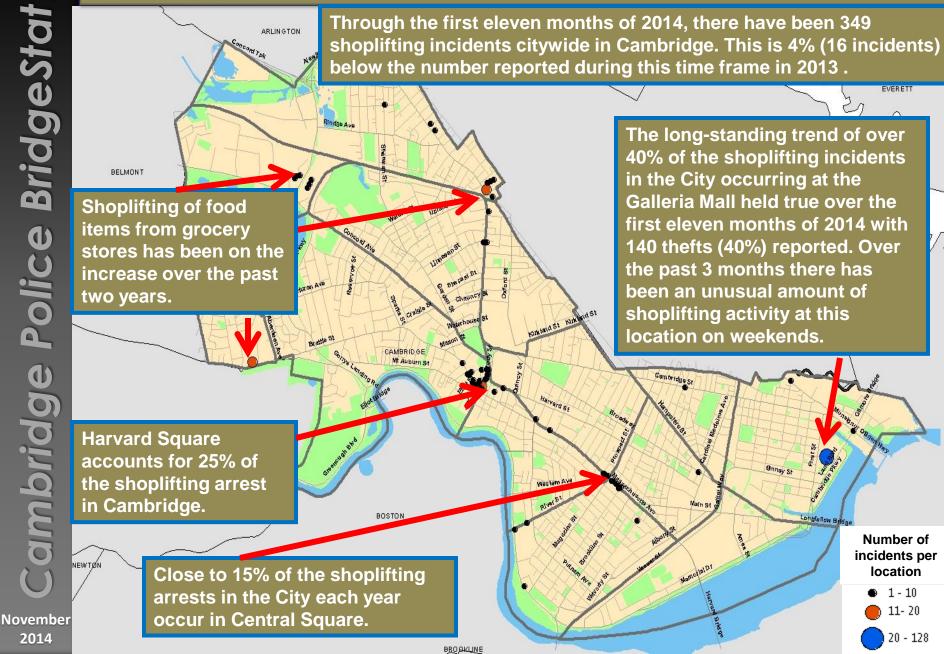


Citizen Response Strategy:

- Citizens are asked to take the following precautions to protect themselves and their belongings from theft:
- Request the delivery of package(s) via a signature to ensure the package will not be left on the front steps or foyer
- Track your packages online, so you have a better idea when it is scheduled to arrive.
- With the Postal Service delivering packages seven days a week through the holidays, request that your packages arrive on a weekend day, if you plan on being home.
- Have your packages delivered to your work address or to a neighborhood friend or family member who would be home, in the event that you are not.



Shoplifting: 1.1.14 to 12.1.14







LARCENY: of Bicycle

No Patterns

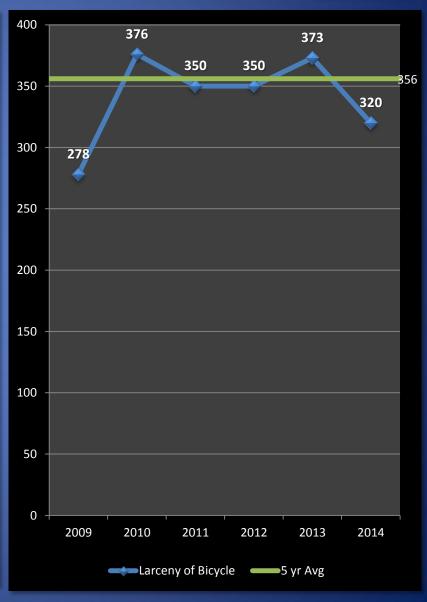
Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks Previous Year 5 Year Average

-46% -14% -10%

- Through the first eleven months of 2014, there have been 320 bikes reported stolen citywide in Cambridge. This is 14% (53 incidents) below the number reported during this time frame in 2013 and 10% (36 incidents) below the average.
- As would be expected, the summer months tend to see the largest number of bike thefts due to increased ridership during warmer weather. Thefts this summer registered as follows: 61 in June, 50 in July, 48 in August, down slightly to 41 in September, dropping significantly in October and November to only 40 combined.
- In November Cambridgeport and MidCambridge both reported 4 thefts.
- 60% of the thefts reported this year have involved bikes that were locked but left out in the open (locked to public bike racks, for example).
- No defined bike theft patterns have emerged, but two arrests were made in September: a Boston male was arrested in Harvard Sq on 9/12 and a Cambridge juvenile was arrested in Area 4 on 9/22.
- Breakdown by Neighborhood, year-to-date:

Neighborhood	Total	% Citywide
Mid-Cambridge	55	17%
Area 4	35	11%
Riverside	33	10%
Cambridgeport	33	10%







AUTO THEFT

No Patterns

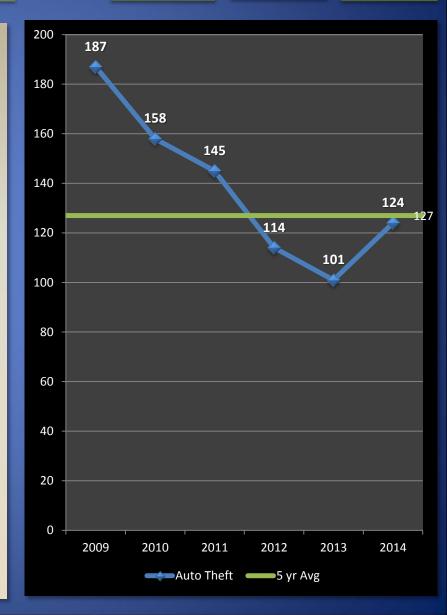
- The projected five—year weighted average for auto thefts for the first eleven months of 2014 is 127; thus far, we are 3 incidents below the average (-2%). However, with 124 thefts yearto-date, we are seeing an increase over 2013 of 23%, or 23 incidents.
- There were 8 auto thefts reported in the past four weeks, which resulted in a 38% decrease over October (five less incidents). Since August activity surrounding the theft of motorcycles and mopeds has tapered off which is typical for the changing of the seasons.
- Since the beginning of the year, the neighborhoods that have reported the largest number of auto thefts have been: Area 4 (21), Cambridgeport (21), East Cambridge (16), and West Cambridge (13). All other neighborhoods except Strawberry Hill have reported at least one auto theft.
- Year-to-date, 56 (or 45%) of the stolen motor vehicles have been recovered.

Percent Change

Previous Year Last 4 Weeks -38%

+23%

5 Year Average





Current Trends in Phone Scams

The following information was provided in a Citizen Alert to Cambridge residents on 10.1.14.

Phone scams are a multi-million dollar business for scammers, who mostly reside outside of the United States. With new scams popping up every day, trying to keep up with the current ones and the technology is difficult. Caller IDs may or may not show a real number, as scammers are taking to technology and using Caller ID spoofing to make their phone number appear as a legitimate number, like 911 or a police department.

The following is a list of some of the current phone scams that have recently been reported to local police departments:

- TAX MONEY OWED TO THE IRS
- FAMILY MEMBER IN AN ACCIDENT
- MICROSOFT COMPUTER ISSUE
- UTILITY COMPANY FEES (typically targets businesses)
- IMMIGRATION WARRANT OR ARREST WARRANT
- THE MYSTERIOUS TEXT MESSAGE FROM A BANK

These are just a few examples of the many phone scams being seen across the US. Once you provide a scammer with a pre-paid money card number, the chance of you recovering the money is very slim. If you have doubts about a phone call you received, contact the company or organization who "allegedly" called. If you receive any calls mentioned in this article (or anything suspicious), please hang up and contact the Cambridge Police (617-349-3300).





Help Prevent Crime

And keep yourself informed!

To receive information from the CPD:

- Sign up with for the Cambridge Alert
 Network, to receive alerts about
 emerging crime patterns, neighborhood
 meetings, and crime prevention tips, by
 visiting
 - www.CambridgeMa.gov/AlertNetwork.
- "Like" the Cambridge Police Department on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CambridgePolice
- Follow @CambridgePolice on Twitter.
- Visit our website at <u>www.CambridgePolice.org</u> for valuable information and reports including the Daily Log and BridgeStat, which is published on the first Friday of every month.
- Download our new "MyPD" smartphone app at www.CambridgePolice.org/MyPD.

To Share Information with the CPD:

- Call our Non-Emergency Telephone Number at 617-349-3300.
 - Every call for service generates a police response, so help drive our resources by reporting things that seem suspicious or out of the ordinary.
- Send an Anonymous TEXT-A-TIP:
 - Send an ANONYMOUS text message to Tip411 (847411). Begin your message with Tip650 and then type your message. You will receive a response from the Cambridge Police with the option to continue communicating. Please remember that this is not a replacement for 9-1-1. If you witness an emergency situation, please call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Send an Anonymous Crime Tip E-Mail at www.CambridgePolice.org/Tips